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From Lord Avebury
Chairman
Parliamentary Human Rights Group

July 10, 1991

Dear Ambassador,

Our Members are concerned about the case of M Abdelmoumem Diouri, the leading Moroccan opposition politician, who was arrested in Paris by the security forces as he returned home from a visit to Spain, and deported to Gabon without being allowed to see his wife and children. M Diouri had refugee status, and the deportation was unlawful was in violation of France's obligations under the European Convention on Refugees.

President Mitterand was reported as saying that M Diouri '*a plusieurs reprises, sur plusieurs terrains, a multiplié les infractions*'. It is a cardinal principle of natural justice that a person be informed of the exact offences he or she is alleged to have committed, and it simply isn't good enough to make sweeping and general allegations which cannot be tested properly. Whatever offences the authorities believe M Diouri had committed, their evidence must have been too weak to stand the test of the courtroom.

As you know, M Diouri is a strong opponent of King Hassan II. His father and mother were both killed by the Moroccan security forces, and he himself was sentenced to death in Morocco before he was granted political asylum in your country, where he had resided for twenty years. One factor which may have prompted the French authorities to deport him was that he had written a book which was highly critical of the King and his regime, though it had yet to be published.

Could you please let me know - so that I can inform our Members, who number some 150 of all parties in both Houses - under what law M Diouri was expelled, and how you reconcile this with the European Convention? Why was he given no hearing, and why was he not allowed to see his family? Why was he not given the opportunity of asking the Algerians or the Swiss if they would accept him?

Yours sincerely,

H E the Ambassador,
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